People Addicted to Chewing of Tobacco

947. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that according to national surveys, there are over 100 million people addicted to chewing of tobacco in India;

(b) if so, how many of them are women and those under 25 years of age;

(c) whether Government are committed to protect people from the ill-effects of tobacco; and

(d) if so, the measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Based on a nationwide survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organization in 1993-94 and projected population for the year 1996, India has approximately 96 million people using tobaco in smokeless form. Approximately 30 million Indian Women use tobacco in smokeless form. Users of smokeless tobacco in the age group 10—24 years are about 11 million.

(c) and (d) The Committee on Subordinate Legislation (Tenth Lok Sabha) in its 22nd Report had made several recommendations primarily to discourage the use of tobacco and tobacco products. The Government is examining these recommendations and the drafts legislation is under consideration of the Government.

Legislation to reduce Tobacco Consumption

948. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive legislation to control and reduce the use of tobacco in India is on anvil;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the proposed legislation is likely to be brought before Parliament;

(c) whether the proposed legislation would cover the use of tobacco in all forms including *gutkas* and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the broad decisions of the New Delhi declaration adopted at the end of the three day International Conference on Global Tobacco Control Law held in January this year, have been incorported in the proposed legislation and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (d) The Committee on Subordinate Legislation (Tenth Lok Sabha) in its 22nd Report had made several recommendations primarily intend to discourage the use of tobacco and tobacco products. The Government is examining these recommendations and a draft legislation is under consideration of the Government.

Grievances against CGHS Dispensaries

949. SHRI NAND DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of reader's grievance titled, "Ill-treatment at CGHS" which appeeared in the Times of India, dated 22nd November, 1999;

(b) whether functioning CGHS dispensaries like one at Dr. Zakir Hussain Marg has totally collapsed as the doctors on duty—particularly in the evening, do not have the equipment for blood pressure check-up;

(c) whether such state of affairs is due to the reason that the senior officers of CGHS do not make surprise visits to the dispensaries; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken for efficient service and punishing the erring doctors, especially in dispensary No. 79—Vivek Vihar?